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OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR

17 December 1980

NOTE FOR:

FROM :

The attached Communications Planning Brief is in response to your request in paragraph 2 of your 15 December memo for a paper on the status of CIA communications and recommendations for improvements.

Attachment:
ER 80-8420/1

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Communications Planning BriefI. Background/Current Status

The Agency's current communications systems and equipments are largely products of the 1950's and early 60's. These were years of rapid growth in Agency activities and budgets and years of modest technological development. Information handling processes were manual and technical collection systems were in their infancy. [redacted]

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In the 1965-70 period components programs were initiated for [redacted] ADP activity. Policy and priority redirections through the 1970's resulted in OC budget and personnel reductions. The effect of these two trends has been a loss in system elasticity required to quickly meet new service needs. [redacted]

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The end result is the worldwide network is now deficient in its service capability and capacity. Current and planned investments in modern information handling [redacted] will not yield the anticipated benefits without modernization of the supporting communications services. [redacted]

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II. Current Problems/Issues

Capacity of the worldwide network must be increased to exploit and process greater amounts of intelligence as quickly as possible. [redacted]

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[redacted] cannot be supported without increased funding for satellite communications terminals and commercial leased circuitry. [redacted]

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Continued survivability of the overseas network requires modernization of the high frequency (HF) systems. This is necessary to provide minimum essential communications in times of crisis when satellite communications and leased circuits are denied us. Current HF equipments are 15-20 years old and becoming unsupportable. [redacted]

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Without extraordinary increases in personnel, it is necessary to continue investment in automation to increase productivity. Current switching systems and operator terminal equipments are from 15-25 years old. These equipments are also becoming unsupportable. [REDACTED]

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III. Recommendations

It is recommended:

(1) That the CIA communications be modernized. By our analysis, the network should be fully modernized by 1990.

(2) [REDACTED] procurement funds be obtained during FY-83 through FY-86 for the modernization (See Attachment A). This is necessary to cope with lead times associated with procurement and installation.

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IV. Summary Statement

While the cost of modernization is significant, there is no reasonable alternative. The intelligence mission demands excellence of communications.

It is essential that CIA communications provide:

a. CAPACITY to support the growing needs of intelligence.

b. CONTINUITY of service to assure essential communications during crises.

c. FLEXIBILITY to respond rapidly to Agency needs for new and expanded service.

d. PRODUCTIVITY improvements to maintain practical manpower levels.